Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both Rural and Urban poverty of Chandigarh.

6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

Development of backward regions

610. *SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA*: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives to ensure speedy development of the identified backward regions in the country with the provision of additional resources to cover the backlog of development during the current Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the strategy worked out and the areas identified for removal of regional imbalances and allocation of funds during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated for Special Area Programme such as Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, North-Eastern Council, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme.

गुजरात को वित्तीय सहायता

611. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री ने कच्छ में चक्रवात से हुए नुकसान को पूरा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक विस्तृत प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है;

(ख) क्या योजना आयोग ने 600 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त राशि स्वीकृत की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त सहायता राशि जारी कर दी गई है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त प्रस्ताव की वर्तमान वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है और इसे अस्वीकृति करने के क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) से (घ) गुजरात के मुख्य मंत्री ने जून 1998 में कच्छ और अन्य जिलों में आए चक्रवात के परिणामस्वरूप, राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एन० एफ० सी० आर०) में 610.65 करोड़ रु० की सहायता के लिए एक ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया था। नुकसान का जायजा लेने और अपेक्षित सहायता की मात्रा का निर्धारण करने के लिए एक अंतर मंत्रालीय केन्द्रीय दल ने प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया। केन्द्रीय दल की रिपोर्ट पर अंतर-मंत्रालीय दल (आई० एम० जी०) की बैठक में विचार किया गया है। राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एन० एफ० सी० आर०) द्वारा दी जाने वाली सहायता की मात्रा, यदि कोई हो, को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केन्द्रीय दल

की रिपोर्ट और आई० एम० जी० की सिफारिशों को राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत समिति के समक्ष रखा जायेगा।

Programmes for the development of KBK districts of Orissa

612. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the programmes launched for the development of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to revive the programmes in those districts; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Long Term Action Plan for development of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir, and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa was launched in 1995. However, in order to focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central plan and centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, rural employment, irrigation, health, drinking water, rural connectivity.

Leasing of Transponders by ISRO

613. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many transponders are available with ISRO;

(b) how many of them are used by Government agencies;

(c) how many of them have been leased out to private agencies; and

(d) what is the annual rental charged by ISRO for leasing transponders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) At present Eighty-nine (89) transponders are avaiable with ISRO. Out of these, sixtysix (66) are being currently used and twentythree (23) trnasponders avaiable on Indian National Satellite-1D (INSAT-1D) and INSAT-2A satellites are in an inclined orbit and hence are not used.

(b) Sixtytwo (62) transponders are used by Government Agencies.

(c) About four (4) transponders have been leased by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) to private agencies.

(d) The rental charged by DOT is between Rs. 1.65 Crores to Rs. 2.75 Crores per annum per transponders depending on the power.

Tapping of Rain Water is an additional source

614. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever conducted survey to assess the quantum of rain water which remains untapped;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the country having rivers flowing throughout the year, large sections of people and cultivable land remain thirsty; and

(c) if so, what concrete measures are proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, the country receives annual precipitation of 4000 billion cubic metres including snowfall. Of this, the seasonal rainfall (June to September) is of the order of 3000 billion cubic metres. Out of this, the average annual flow available in rivers is around